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11TH Year, Issue #129 | Serving Sacramento Since 1978 | August 15, 1989

Focus on Fall Fashion

Photo by Deborah Goldstein

Raymond J. Hunter, Donna Rae Frantz, Anna D. Harrison, Sandy LaBrasca, Ken Topper, Ron Gray, and Marty Martinez.

M. R. Richards
of MGW Staff

More and more the fashion questions loom large. What can I wear to be effective in business? What clothes will enhance my "Image?" Should I go with the fad of the moment or opt for the classic look? Where's the glamor? What are the "power" people wearing?

MGW Newspaper got together with fashion mavens at Weinstock's and Threadbare — called up some of the "Bad" and the "Beautiful" in our community — set the stage in the most power-pushy locale of all, the California State Capitol — and hopefully, got some answers! Clothes to work in — clothes to play in — and some that let you do both. What more can we ask? Ken Topper, Consultant to Senator David Roberti, brought his pixilated sense of humor, great stage presence and boyish good looks to the scene; Anna Harrison, famous SAGA Golfer (maybe someday... Congresswoman Harrison) , looks business-like and distinguished and imparts a rich look to her fashions; Ron Gray, Press Secretary for Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy, makes a trendy but solid fashion statement with his rugged good looks, spikey hair and fashion flair; Raymond Hunter, CAPPAC member and Folsom Prison Guard, brings a solid silhouette to his understated, but understood "look"; Sandy LaBrasca, Silver Medal Body Builder Winner, her sloe-eyed looks enhanced by her let's-get-down-to-business clothes, lets her playful persona out when wearing casuals; Donna Rae Frantz, Hair Stylist at The Associates, glamorizes with accessories which enhance her sparkle; Marty Martinez, Student and Landscaper, would look good wearing an inner tube, but gorgeous suits and knockout sweaters don't hurt either! In all, our fabulous political fashion folks have got that "killer" look down pat.

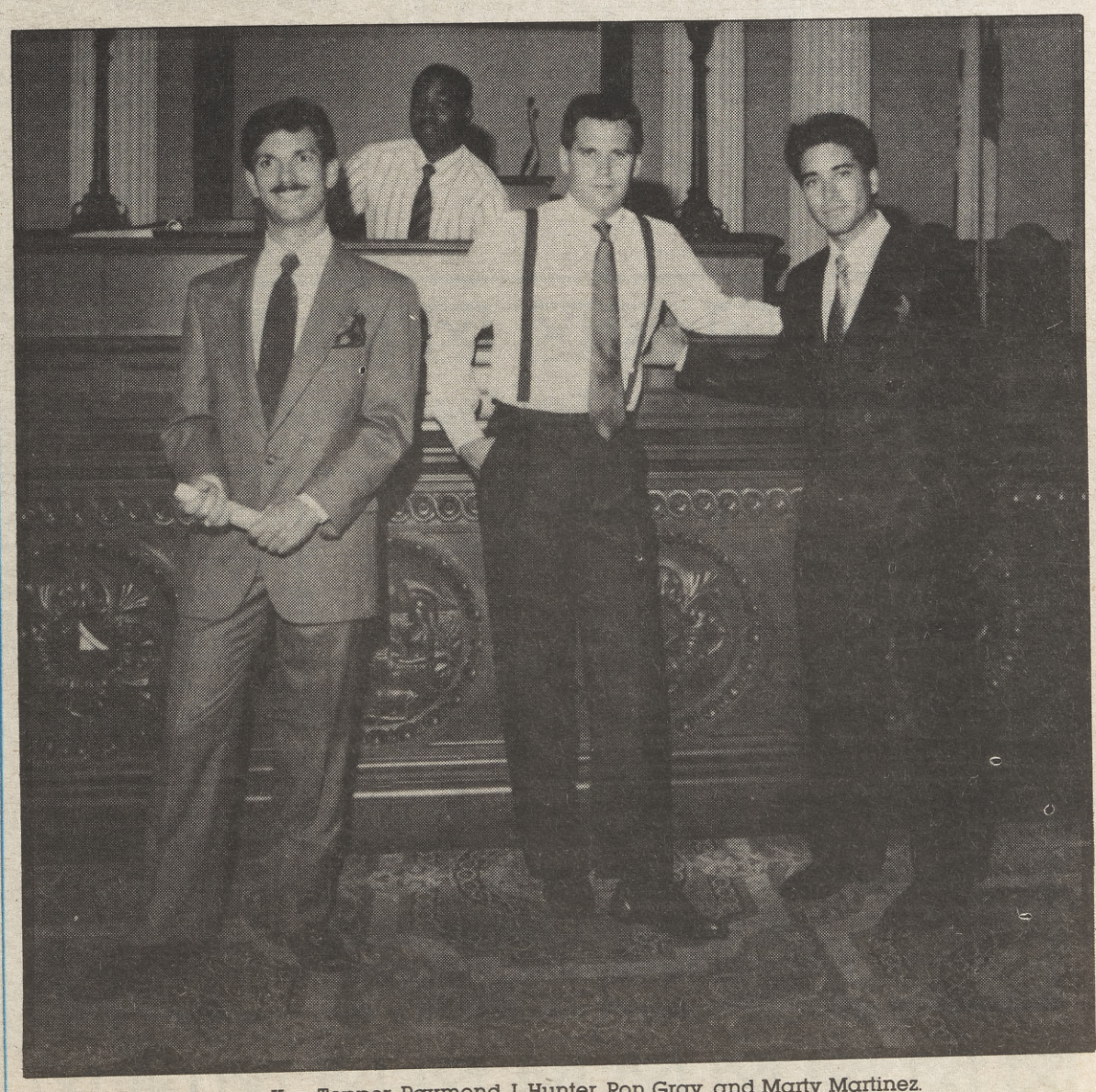

Photo by Deborah Goldstein

Ken Topper, Raymond J. Hunter, Ron Gray, and Marty Martinez.

MGW EDITORIAL

...AND SO IT CONTINUES

As cities go, this one isn't big enough to be impersonal — yet. Word gets around. Cars were vandalized at this or that bar. Somebody got beaten up. Somebody else got beaten up just because they **Thought** he was gay. A terrified young man, handcuffed behind his back, is thrown face first into a concrete wall by deputies who have been asking him whether he's a "faggot." Another is subjected to his handcuffed arms being pulled up behind him while he is asked over and over whether he is gay or a "fag" — he has residual numbness in one hand. Arrest reports from Broadway, reports from midtown — windows broken, tires slashed — business as usual.

Yet, Assistant Police Chief, Lee Dom, of the Sacramento Police Department whose office is set up as liaison to the gay community, says only four incidents a year are reported to his department.

For years, MGW and others in the community have worked to set up an accepting atmosphere in the Sacramento area. Years of diligent work with police and sheriff's departments, on the political scene and with the Human Rights Commission have resulted in educated staff and enlightened policies. Police have had sensitivity training. We've been assured over and over that anonymity will be respected. We're even encouraged to report on incidents involving police insensitivity or abuse. There's only one hitch. Us.

Instead we report from bar to bar. We report to our friends. We report at parties. But we're **not** taking the responsibility to report where it counts. We **must** report to the police agency in the area where the incident happens. We **must** report to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC, 20009 or (202)332-6483.

But instead of reporting where it counts we begin to deal in denial. We get "talked" out of it by people who fear their business will be affected if the word gets out or if too many cops come around. We get talked out of it by friends who magnify our fears of talking to police; of being labeled a 'known' homosexual; of fighting back.

Ultimately, it's a matter of choice. We can continue to be victims — to live in fear — or we can chose to take responsibility for our own lives and for the well being of the rest of the community by making the system work — **for** us instead of **against** us for a change. We can't ask other people to give a damn about us if we don't care enough about ourselves to fight back.

This city isn't big enough to be impersonal — yet — but unless we utilize the safeguards that have been put in place, unless we require these issues be addressed, unless we do **our** part — it's going to get that way real fast.

MGW WRITE

Guidelines for letters to be published:
Letters to the Editor must be signed with your real name, address and phone (so we can call you with any questions.) Your name, address and phone number may be withheld upon written request. Letters will not be published unless the above guidelines are followed.

Take us Seriously!!

Editor:

As a child fo the 60's, it saddens me to have to call on you, my brothers, sisters and friends, to join in a boycott of Rolling Stone Magazine. Like Coors and others before them, they have failed to take seriously our economic power, and, by doing so, they have comfortably displayed their homophobia.

In the last few months they have not only blessed us with cover photos of such biggots as Sam Kinison, Axel Rose, and Eddie Murphy — they have given them space in their rag to tell us why it's O.K. to say what they want about whom they please.

Sam Kinison not only is offensive to gays, he makes most women I know want to pull his tongue out and use a curling iron on it. Axel Rose of Guns and Roses lets us know that because of one bad experience, it's O.K. to degrade all of us in song for all the world to see. In the same song he takes ugly swipes at immigrants, people of color, and others — and Eddie Murphy, well, all I need to say is he's at it again.

There are young gay people trying to survive their gay youth with dignity in the face of enough ugly, hatefull people. By putting these famous faces on their cover they (Rolling Stone) give them credibility and allow them to encourage all kinds of anti-gay, black, and ethnic attacks. In my view we owe it to ourselves and our youth to stand up to these narrow minded, over paid, BlowHards.

Since Rolling Stone is now a place these buffoons can print their poison, Rolling Stone should feel the heat of our economic wrath. I call on you, to cancel your subscriptions. Write letters of protest. Tie up their office phones with protest calls. Tie up their 800 phone lines, they pay for those calls, and finally, write you opinion of their rag on the handy subscription cards they place in their magazine. Don't put you name or address and drop it in the mail. Rolling Stone has to pay the postage on all of those cards. Even if you don't order a subscription. Think about it.

I have 2 decades worth of back issues saved and I'm returning all of the little postage paid subscription cards from every issue. If we all do these things and boycott their advertisers, we could cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars, maybe more. I think its worth a try. I hope you do too.

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Happy dialing and don't forget your subscription return cards.

David Morrell
Sacramento, CA

Pain and Ignorance

Editor:

I would like to openly express my love and gratitude to my special friends Marty and Patrick. Their support and weekly trips to San Francisco to help care for the man I loved for 13 years is immeasurable. Sacramento is very fortunate to have these two wonderful human beings in its community.

Often I have to escape the daily reminders of my loss. Watching someone you love so much suffer and die of AIDS is something that effects you for life. When I need a change I head for my friends and Sacramento.

When I enter our bars and see various containers for donations for Hand-to-Hand, I feel a sense of compasion that goes beyond words.

I know the years ahead will be full of pain caused by ignorant insensitive words or actions. I never would have thought that these actions would take place in our gay bars. I never would have thought that I would enter not one, but two gay bars and hear Donna Summers being played. This is the woman who publicly stated that AIDS is gods punishment for being gay.

I know some gays feel we should forget the past comments made, but remembering the past is all I have to feel Connie's presence.

The reaction of the staff at the Wreck Room and the Western was that of annoyance, not understanding. All I can ask is that you remember there are many of us who have AIDS, have tested positive and/or lost loved ones to AIDS. Do you think we should be able to enjoy the music of someone who thinks we deserve being punished?

Please Please Please remember those of us left behind. We don't need to add salt to our woulds. We don't need Donna Summers. We need each other.

Mal Conallt
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MGW MOM...GUESS WHAT!

'Inconsistencies' in S.F. Assault Report Revealed

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

Lynn Griffis, the assistant pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in San Francisco who made national news in late July following reports of a kidnaping and second brutal assault, came unwillingly to the attention of the press again here in early August as rumors began surfacing that elements of her reported second assault were inconsistent with police evidence in the case.

Recent questions have also been raised suggesting Griffis may have faked a reported first assault on her and may have been responsible for a rash of death threats against herself and other MCC clergy.

On Friday, August 4, MCC pastor Jim Mitulski and San Francisco police chief Frank Jordan held a hastily-put-together press conference to confirm that indeed there were conflicts over Griffis' original police statement and physical evidence gathered in the case and that Griffis' resignation from MCC had been accepted.

On July 27 Griffis reported to police that she had been forced at knife-point into an automobile in broad daylight by two men whom she described as "skinheads" and had been brutally assaulted. According to Griffis' report at the time, the two men had threatened to "finish the job next time" after cutting her breasts with a knife and beating her.

"They specifically stated that San Francisco is not our city anymore," Griffis said at a press conference here July 30. "And that they would kill us all one by one; that the government — if you can call it a government — is spending too much money on a disease that we brought on ourselves."

The brutality of the two attacks, their apparent anti-gay nature as Griffis detailed them, and an alleged long-distance death threat Griffis said she received while she was in Minneapolis recovering after the first attack, caused police chief Jordan to give the case top priority status in the department and to call in the FBI. Mayor Art Agnos increased a $5,000 reward connected with the first reported assault to $10,000 after Griffis reported the second assault. Outraged over the reported assault, some 250-300 angry people marched in an ACT UP/SF demonstration protesting anti-lesbian/gay violence here from the largely gay Castro to the Haight-Ashbury district where Griffis lived.

MCC's Mitulski said Griffis resigned from the church August 3 only two hours after the church board of directors had placed her on administrative leave over apparent inaccuracies in her original report of the assault to police. "The church has a lot of compassion for Lynn," Mitulski said. "And whatever the truth is in this situation, we want to know what the truth is. Right now we don't know the truth, but we know that it's different from the stories that were originally reported."

At the August 4 press conference at police headquarters here, Mitulski, Jordan, Melinda Paras of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), and newly appointed police commissioner Gwenn Craig reported on a meeting held the day before with Griffis. At that meeting police say they confronted Griffis with "inconsistencies" in her story.

"When we brought up what we thought was conflicting evidence and that clarification needed to be made, her story was changed," said police chief Jordan. "She has (now) stated that she has been sexually assaulted."

Chief Jordan declined to make any detailed comments about Griffis' new version of the assault while it is still under investigaiton. However one person who has been involved in this ongoing and now confusing assault case said Griffis stands by her original verson of the assault. The source, who spoke on condition of not being identified, said that Griffis was "too ashamed to admit that part of the assault had also been rape."

San Francisco police are now checking Griffis' second account of the incident. "We have some doubts," chief Jordan said of Griffis' second statement about the assault. Jordan also said FBI will play only a small role in the police investigation. FBI spokespersons here declined all comment on the case at this time.

On July 12 Griffis had reported a previous anti-gay assault. She said she had been hit in the face with a shovel by an assailant at her home where someone had scrawled "Die With Your Fags" on a wall in her garage. Following the report of that first assault, Griffis received eight stitches in her face and chief Jordan said, "At this time we have no reason to believe that's not a valid (assault report), but that will be re-evaluated too."

See **Griffis** *on pg. 12*

Communitys' Reactions...

Community reactions to the Griffis case have ranged from suggestions that the FBI had purposefully brought Griffis' story into question in order to discredit her and the alleged assaults to criticism of MCC's failure to detect what they now admit are serious problems for their former assistant pastor to theories that Griffis is being publicly discredited with her own approval as a "smoke screen" to lure the alleged assailants into somehow revealing themselves.

"I just don't believe someone they're now claiming is a pathological liar and obviously a seriously mentally deranged person could get theology degrees from two schools, work under weekly supervision at the church (MCC) for a year and a half, and then fake two serious assaults without someone, somewhere along the way noticing she's nuts," said T. David Smith, who described himself as "just an ordinary faggot living in the Castro (district)."

Smith, like others in the community here, have raised questions about MCC's rapid about-face on Griffis' credibility based so far on "physical evidence" and "personnel information" which police, Mitulski and other MCC staff refuse to make public.

When asked about the information and evidence that has brought Griffis' reports into question, both police and MCC's Mitulski have refused to comment, claiming they could not discuss the matter while a formal investigation was still ongoing becasue it might "compromise Griffis' due process rights." The question for some people here then has become: Doesn't holding press conferences publicly questioning not only her version of the second assault but also whether either assault actually took place without disclosing any hard evidence also compromises her due process rights?

Police declined comment altogether.

Mitulski, however, said the August 4 press conference where "inconsistencies" in Griffis' original story about the second assault were first revealed "was necessary because the information (about the 'inconsistencies') was leaking out." But gushing rather than leaking might be a better word for how rumors were flowing here reportedly as early as August 1 — three days before the police press conference and two days before Griffis herself was confronted by police and community leaders with the inconsistencies in her story.

According to one staff member who did not want to be identified, the **San Francisco Sentinel** was getting phone calls as early as Tuesday, August 1, about "Problems" with the Griffis case and that the source of the leaks was an unnamed officer in the police department. Sentinel news editor Daniel Willson was unavailable for comment on the report and police officials declined comment. ■

OCCP Festival Will Go On in Orange County

The Orange County Cultural Pride (OCCP) Festival will go on as scheduled September 9 and 10 despite a well orchestrated attack by Lou Sheldon (Coalition for Traditional Values). The festival in Santa Ana's Centennial Park will feature art, music, dance, entertainment, and a Pride Parade on September 10.

In May, Sheldon organized over 700 protestors at a City Council meeting urging council members to revoke the OCCP permit.

At Mayor Young's request, the city attorney prepared and issued an opinion advising the council that to deny lesbians and gays access to the park while allowing other organizations to use the site, would violate rights of assembly and free speech under the U.S. Constitution.

During June OCCP entered discussions with the city manager about possibly relocating the event to help end the cotroversy created by Sheldon. Under a tenative agreement, Sheldon was to stop pressuring city officials to squash the event, but Sheldon reneged when he "found out" that a parade was also scheduled. The Pride Parade had always been a part of the festival, but Sheldon said, "We couldn't accept a parade flaunting homosexuality on public streets."

Sheldon is also behind the "Irvine Values Coalition," that has attacked the Irvine Human Rights Ordinance enacted on July 12, 1988. Passage of a November 7 ballot would delete the words "sexual orientation" from the current ordinance and require that any future ordinances regarding sexual orientation be adopted only by another ballot initiative.

"Irvine Citizens United Against Discrimination" has formed to defend the ordinance. ■

California Abortion Ban Petition Filed

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

Andrew Eppink of Palmdale, California, has become the first person in the state to file ballot initiative papers to ban abortion here since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled July 3 that states could restrict publicly financed abortions in this country.

Eppink filed the initiative papers with the state attorney general's office July 28 where it will be titled. Other state officials are required to also provide initiatives with a fiscal analysis before it is registered with the secretary of state's office. At that time supporters will have 150 days to gather enough signatures to place it on the ballot in November.

Eppink's initiative would amend the state Constitution with the one-sentence statement: "The people of California recognize and affirm that the paramount right to life is vested in each human being from the moment of fertilization without regard to age, health, or condition of dependency."

Legal experts agree the Eppink initiative would effectively ban all abortion, publicly or privately funded, in California. ■

Bob Hope Anti-Violence TV Spot Aired

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

Several bay area television and radio stations have agreed to air a 30-second public service announcement by comedian Bob Hope condemning anti-lesbian/gay violence. The Hope video and audio spots were made originally by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) national office in New York after the comedian made a joke on television using the word "fags." Hope has since not only apologized for the joke but also made the video.

The GLAAD San Francisco chapter has arranged for the announcement to be aired on television stations KRON, KPIX, KGO, KBHK, and KOFY in San Francisco as well as KTVU in Oakland. GLAAD/SF will continue contacting area radio and television stations, including stations in San Jose and Marin County, to get their agreement to air the public service announcement during the coming months.

After brief comments about his pride in the right to free speech in this country Hope says, "That's why I was amazed to discover that many people die each year in anti-gay attacks and thousands more are left scarred emotionally and physically. Bigotry has no place in this great nation and violence has no place in this world."

GLAAD/SF spokesman Zane Blaney said the organizaiton had not approached any television or radio stations that were unwilling to accept the Bob Hope public service announcement and that the group is interested in providing other stations in the area with copies as well. ■

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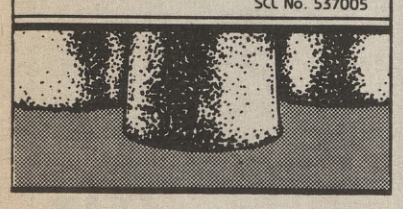

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MGW HIV NEWSLINE

by Sonya Cox
OF MGW STAFF

Half Free of AIDS After 10 Years . . . The San Francisco Public Health Department reported at the recent Montreal AIDS Conference that 10 years after infection, 54 percent of gay and bisexual men had developed AIDS. One year after infection, the rate was zero; after 4 years, it was 10 percent; and after 9 years it was 43 percent. The medical histories of 6700 men were used for the study.

Critical Drug Provided free . . . Assistant Health Secretary Dr. James Mason said the government will assure free supplies of aerosolized pentamidine, which fights AIDS-related pneumonia, to people with AIDS who can't afford to pay for it.

Free Testing . . . Anonymous testing for HIV virus is offered in Sacramento every Wednesday and Thursday at Capital Health Center. Anyone who has had unprotected intercourse or injected drugs intravenously in the past 12 years, or had a blood transfusion prior to March 1985 should strongly consider getting tested. HIV is a manageable, treatable virus; it is no longer a death sentence: please get tested!

AIDS Plaguing Young Blacks . . . Black men are being stricken with AIDS at a rate of 30 per 100,000 as opposed to 9.7 per 100,000 in white males.

Walkers Gather $ . . . Congratulations to Sissy Billingsley, Shane Van Balen and other Sacramentans who trekked the recent San Francisco AIDS walk. Sissy and Shane collected several hundred dollars, mostly from the western dancing crowd at Faces! Thanks to everyone involved! (Next year, be sure to walk in Sacramento at the Sacramento AIDS walk to raise money for local AIDS agencies desperate for funds.)

Sex in Prison a Reality . . . The San Francisco Sheriff has decided to go ahead with a program to distribute condoms to inmates at the county jail despite the fact that the California penal code makes sex between inmates a felony and makes anyone who "aids or abets" inmate sex liable to prosecution. A legal opinion has been sought from the State Attorney General and the City District Attorney since 1987, but the matter has still not been resolved. Inmates leaving Sacramento County Jail have been taking with them an AIDS prevention kit and information about preventing HIV infection, but don't receive condoms while incarcerated.

Sacramento Children's Worker to Walk . . . Nancy Nystrom, who works with "drug babies" at risk for HIV infection with County Children's Services, will walk the 100 miles from Folsom Lake to Hope Valley to raise money for the Sacramento AIDS Foundation starting August 28. The public is invited to join in at any point along the route; donors who wish to make pledges on a per-mile basis should call Sam Schuchat at the Foundation (448-2437).

AZT in the Womb . . . Drug trials will evaluate the safety of using AZT in pregnant women who are infected with HIV. The trials will be a first step in determining whether AZT given during pregnancy can prevent transmission of HIV from infected mothers to their newborns. Of those babies diagnosed before their first birthday, more than half die within six months.

$100 Million for Children With AIDS . . . Senator Pete Wilson recently announced his support for legislation making $100 million available to public and private agencies to provide services to babies and children with AIDS and their families. In California, there are currently 134 cases in children under 12; that number is projected to be nearly 1200 within 4 years.

City Council Stands Firm . . . The Concord City Council recently held firm against conservative Christian pressure to repeal the city's ordinance outlawing discrimination in housing, employment, and business services against people with AIDS, but it voted to take the issue to the polls in November. Similar measures have been recently approved in Richmond and Contra Costa County.

Hand to Hand Benefit . . . A pat on the back for a job extremely well done to Robby Becker, Karen Merick, and Debby Bell who put together the recent variety show to benefit the Sacramento AIDS Foundation's Hand-to-Hand Project, the AIDS Action League, the Positive Social Support Network, and the new AIDS wing at UC-Med Center. The show, sponsored by the Performing Artists for AIDS-Related Charities, was fantastic and the love put into it was felt by all who attended. A total of $800 was collected. Thanks!

Upcoming Events . . .

- Rainbow Festival Street Fair in front of Faces, 20th & K, Monday, September 4.
- Midnight Cabaret benefit show in tent at Faces, Friday September 1, "Cats Who Care," featuring cast of the musical CATS; call Lambda at 442-5801 for ticket information.
- Positive Singles Pool Party, Saturday, August 26, 1:00, 3624 Folsom Blvd. Bring your favorite bathing suit and something to BBQ! Call Arturo at 447-2510 to RSVP.

100,000 Mark Reached . . . This is a story that should never have been written. But it may be only the beginning in the long saga of wasted lives in the war on AIDS. As of June 25, there were 100,000 cases of AIDS reported since the beginning of the epidemic in 1981, so far resulting in 58,014 deaths — 5,000 more than died in the Vietnam war. In California, 12,710 of the 20,526 cases reported have perished; and in Sacramento County, 388 cases have resulted in 215 deaths.

As the 100,000 mark is reached, the Public Health Service predicts that an additional 250,000 Americans will require medical treatment over the next three and a half years or need expensive medications to delay or prevent the disease. This compares to the eight years that it took to reach the 100,000 mark.

It is hoped that more compassionate drug approvals and extensive research on promising drug therapies will prevent these projections from becoming a reality. But only through education and government funding can this occur. At present, there is no master plan for a government response to this national crisis.

AIDS is shifting from being largely a disease of middle class gay white men to a disease affecting Blacks, Hispanics, women, children, teenagers, I.V.-drug users, and the homeless. These groups make up the "second wave" of the disease that is about to wash over us and, over the next 15 years or so, may outnumber cases in gay men. But apathy remains the main roadblock because the heterosexual threat affects mostly minorities, so most white Americans are still not concerned.

Public health officials now often find themselves encouraging AIDS activists to mount dramatic public protests to get the attention of politicians. As the epidemic raged through the eight years of the Reagan Administration, it was largely ignored. Does President Bush have the vision and direction to change the course of this disease? The price of not doing so could be devastating. ■

Sacramento AIDS Walk Raised $11,975

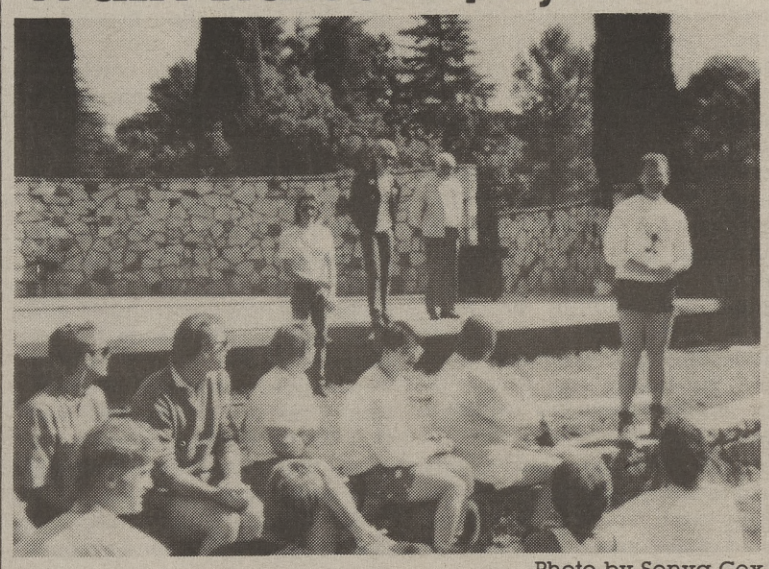

Photo by Sonya Cox

DR. NEIL FLYNN (standing at right), officialy opened the AIDS walk ceremonies. Standing on stage (left to right) are David Austin, business partner David Bernt (coordinator of the walk), and Bernt's father, Cecil.

The Sacramento AIDS Walk will present checks totaling $11,975 to 11 local organizations providing AIDS services. This is all of the money collected for the walk.

Hope House, CARES, the Hand to Hand Project of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, and the AIDS Ward at UC Medical Center will each receive $2,000. Project Survival, which opted to get as much as its marchers raised, will receive $896.

The Hemophilia council of Northern California, Planned Parenthood, Sacrmento Aid to AIDS, the Stop AIDS Project, the Aquarian Effort, and the client Services Fund of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation will each receive $513.

Checks will be handed out to all of the groups at a brief, public ceremony in the Patio Room of the Westminister Presbyterian Church, 1300 N Street, Sacramento, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, August 17. Next year's AIDS Walk is already scheduled for May 20, 1990. ■

Medical Update

DDI: The Latest New Hope . . . Will this be the one? So many promising drug therapies to treat HIV infection are on the horizon, just out of reach, too new and frightening to try because drugs of this strength can carry with them major side effects (sloughing off of skin, strokes). Just the right dosage must be taken, and each new strength must be individually tested. It's all so time-consuming, so frustrating at times.

Dideoxyinosine (DDI) is one ot the most promising HIV antiviral drugs currently in clinical testing. It is hoped that it can keep HIV in check much as AZT does, but without the side effects. For those whose bodies cannot tolerate AZT, or for those taking it who are developing side effects, this alternate can be a god-send. Positive results in Phase I trials indicate that DDI is active against HIV in human beings. The FDA this past month decided to start Phase II trials in September and grant DDI an entirely new trials method (parallel tracking) in which tests continue while the drug is restrictively released to 3000 individuals a month free of charge.

But what is it? AZT (azidothymidine, retrovir, zidovudine) and DDI are both members of a family of drugs called nucleoside analogues. Drugs in this family have shown the ability — in a test tube — to significantly suppress HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus which suppresses immune systems, making them less able to fight off disease and infection). This suppression ability comes through a process known as premature viral DNA chain termination, in which enzyme activity is reversed and the virus can't copy itself.

This interference process does **NOT** involve eradicating existing infected cells, and so cannot be thought of as a way of curing HIV infection or AIDS. But if it works, it will be a means of stemming the process of infection by protecting uninfected cells — thus prolonging life, much as AZT now does. Gram for gram, DDI is less active than AZT, but it appears that more of the drug can be taken without significant side effects and that it may actually turn out to be a more useful drug overall.

The active component of DDI, in the test tube, has an intracellular life of up to 24 hours, implying a less frequent dosage schedule than AZT (i.e., every eight hours).

Increases in uric acid indicate that it will have to be taken with an antacid since stomach acids will cause it to break down improperly and destroy the DDI so that it won't be absorbed. Therefore it will be absolutely necessary to take it with food or antacids. Mild insomnia and headaches have also been reported in Phase I trials. At higher doses some patients testing the drug have complained of pain in their feet, raising fears of neuropathy (nerve damage) at certain doses.

For individuals tempted to consider personal experimentation with an underground source of the drug, it is emphasized that significant toxicity is a real possibility. The risk/benefit ratio is unknown at this point. Preliminary trials look extremely promising, but the long-term picture is unknown.

Your doctor will keep you informed about this drug; ask her or him if you have questions or think you might benefit from the drug. There have been no guidelines released yet on how the 3,000 individuals per month who can receive the drug will be selected. More from the FDA and Bristol-Myers, developer of DDI, is expected shortly on this question. Stay tuned.

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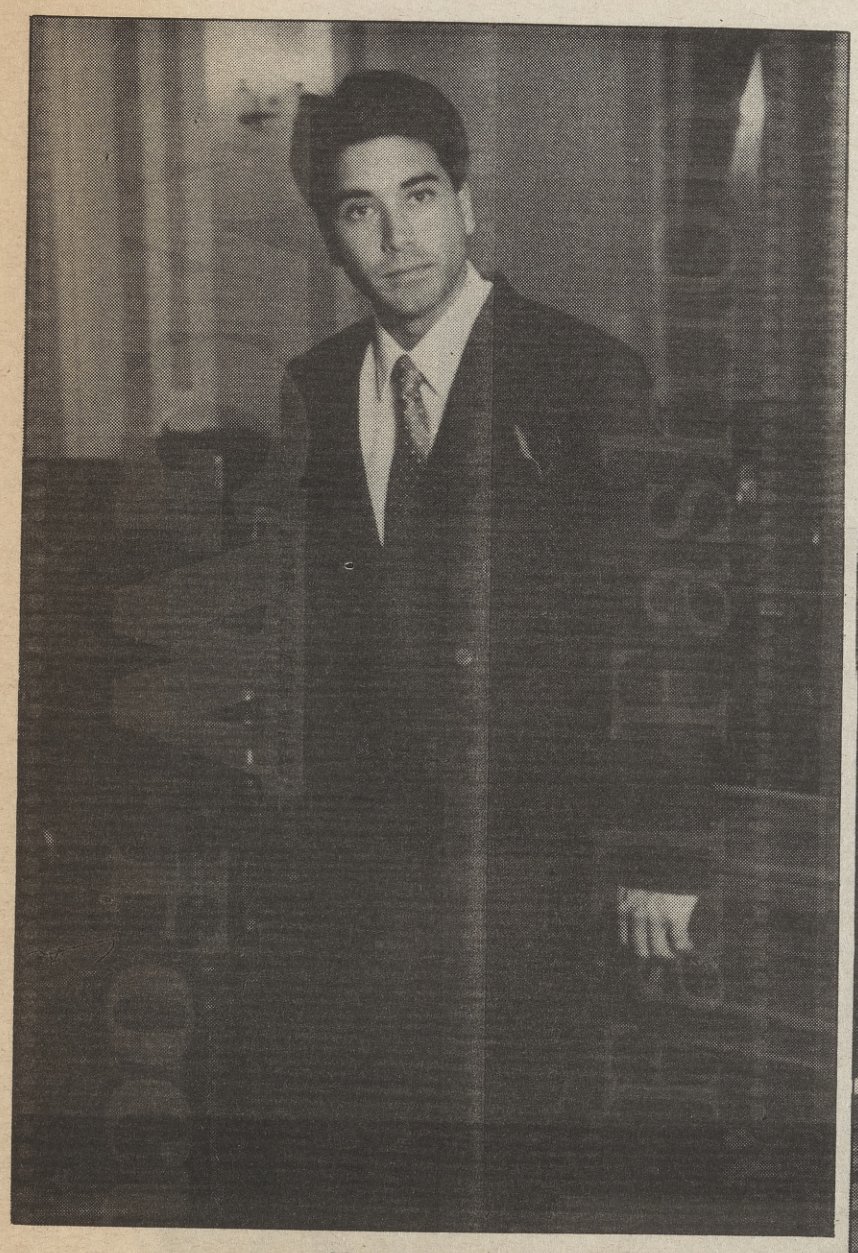
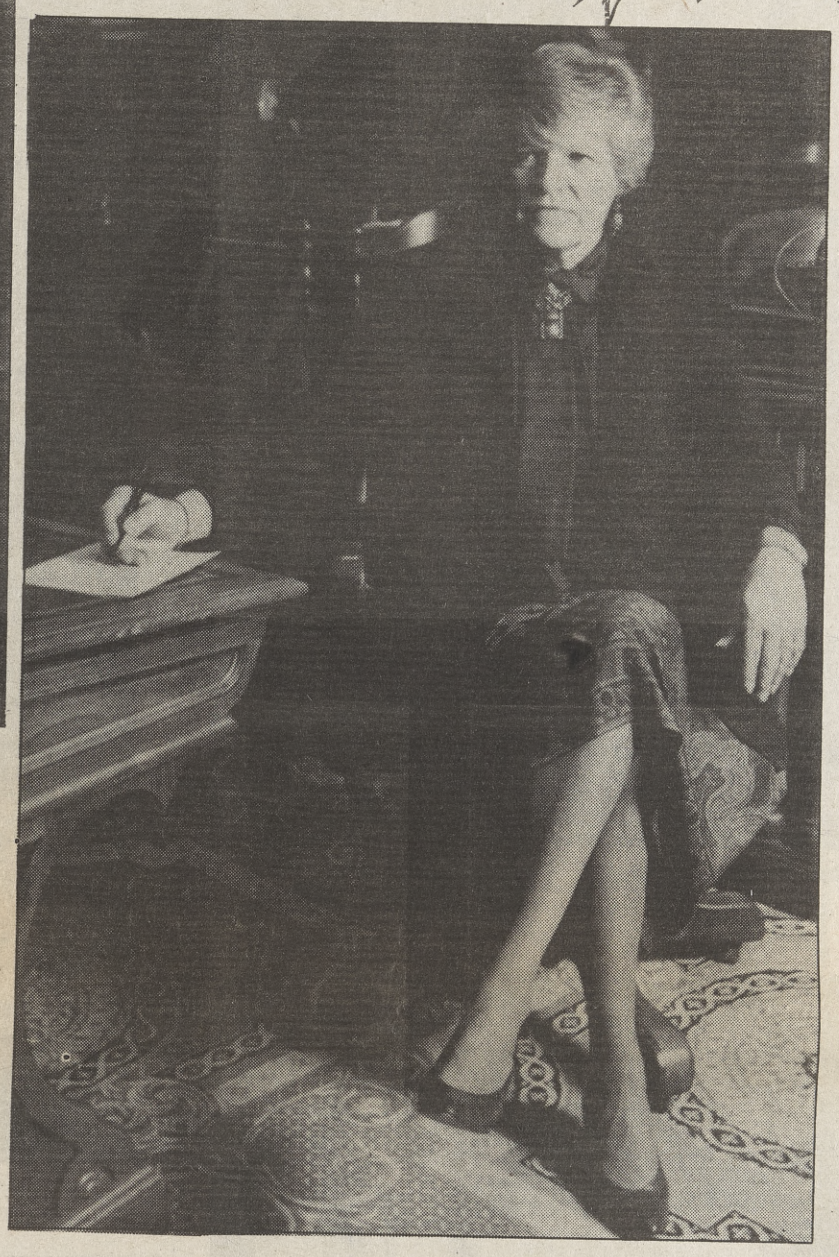
MGW Focus on Fall Fashion

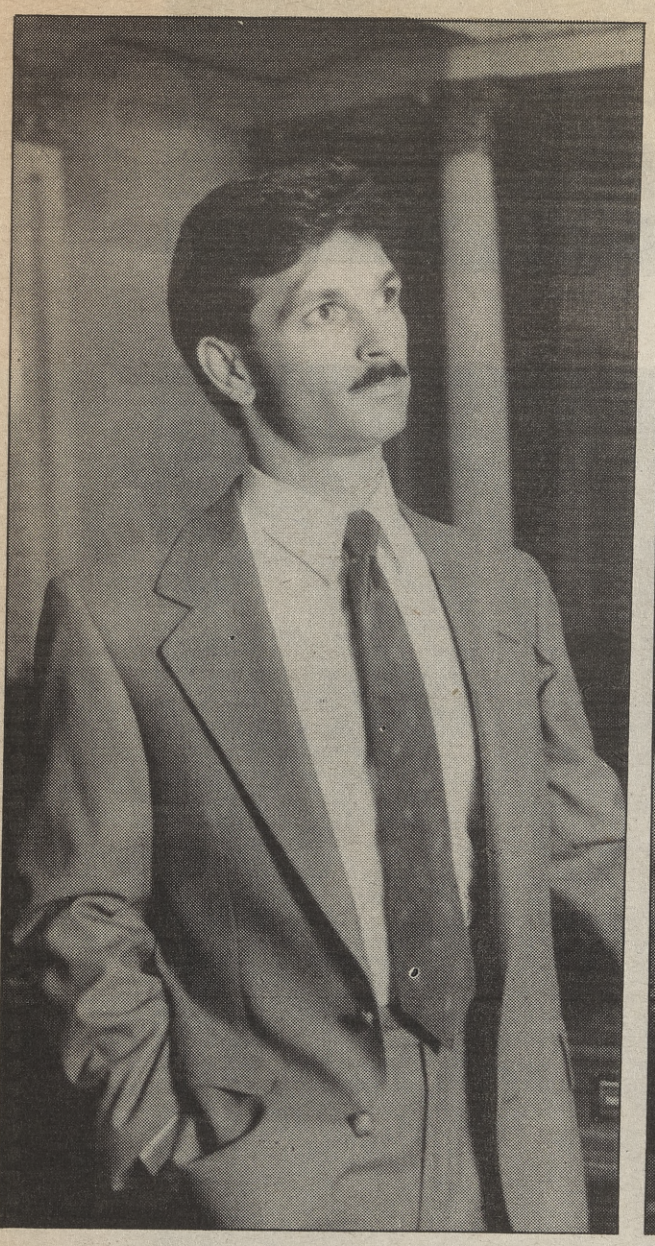
MOM...GUESS WHAT!



Marty Martinez



Anna D. Harrison



Ken Topper

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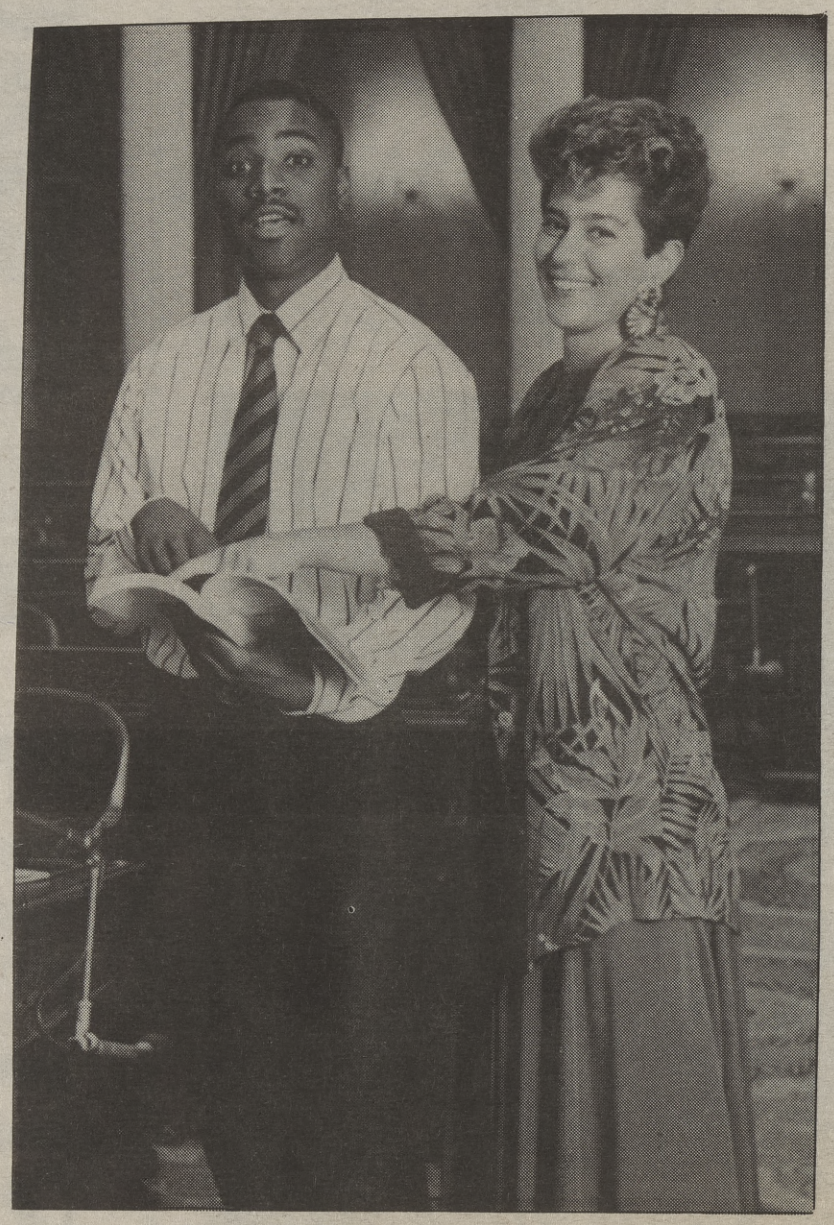
On Location: In the State Capitol Assembly Floor



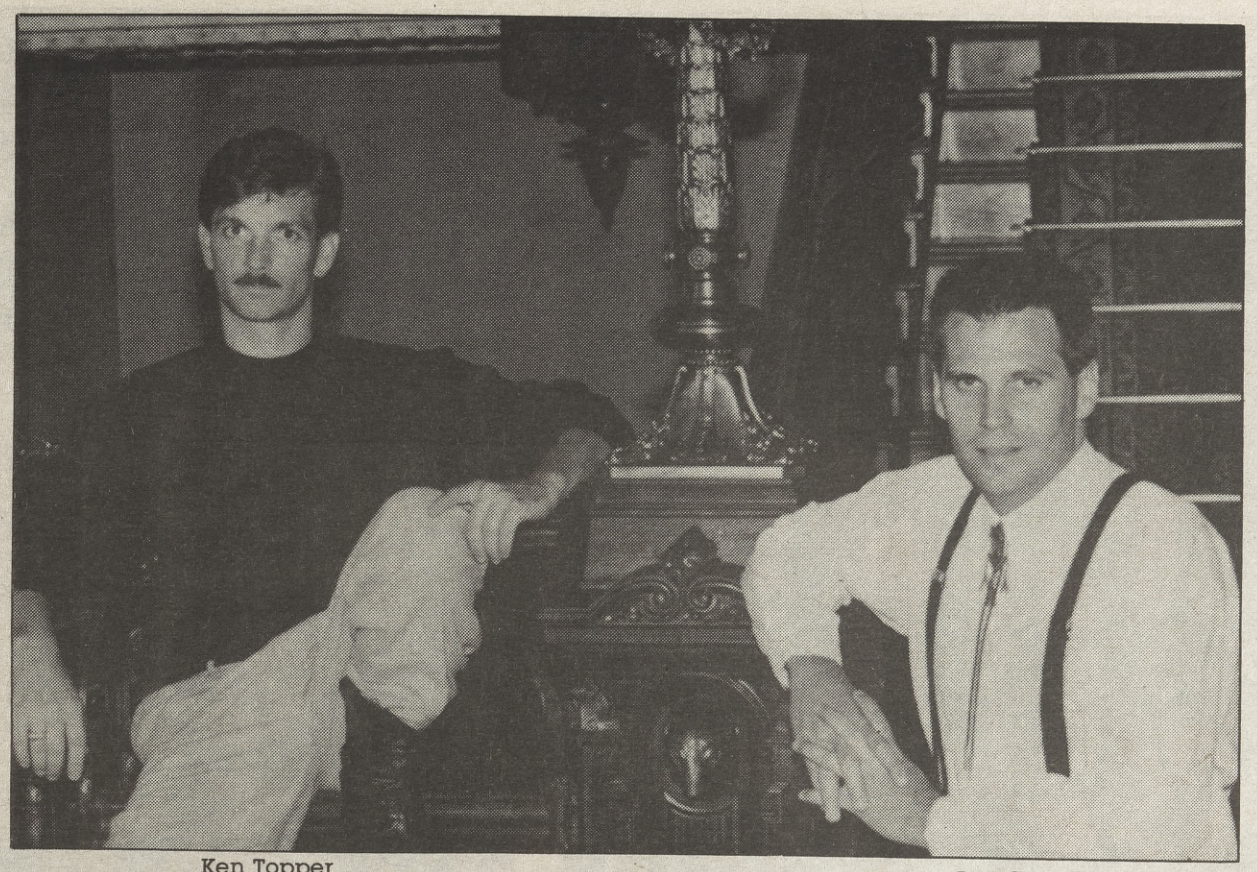
Raymond J. Hunter Sandy LaBrasca

Ron Gray

Donna Rae Frantz Sandy LaBrasca

Sandy LaBrasca

Focus on Fall Fashions



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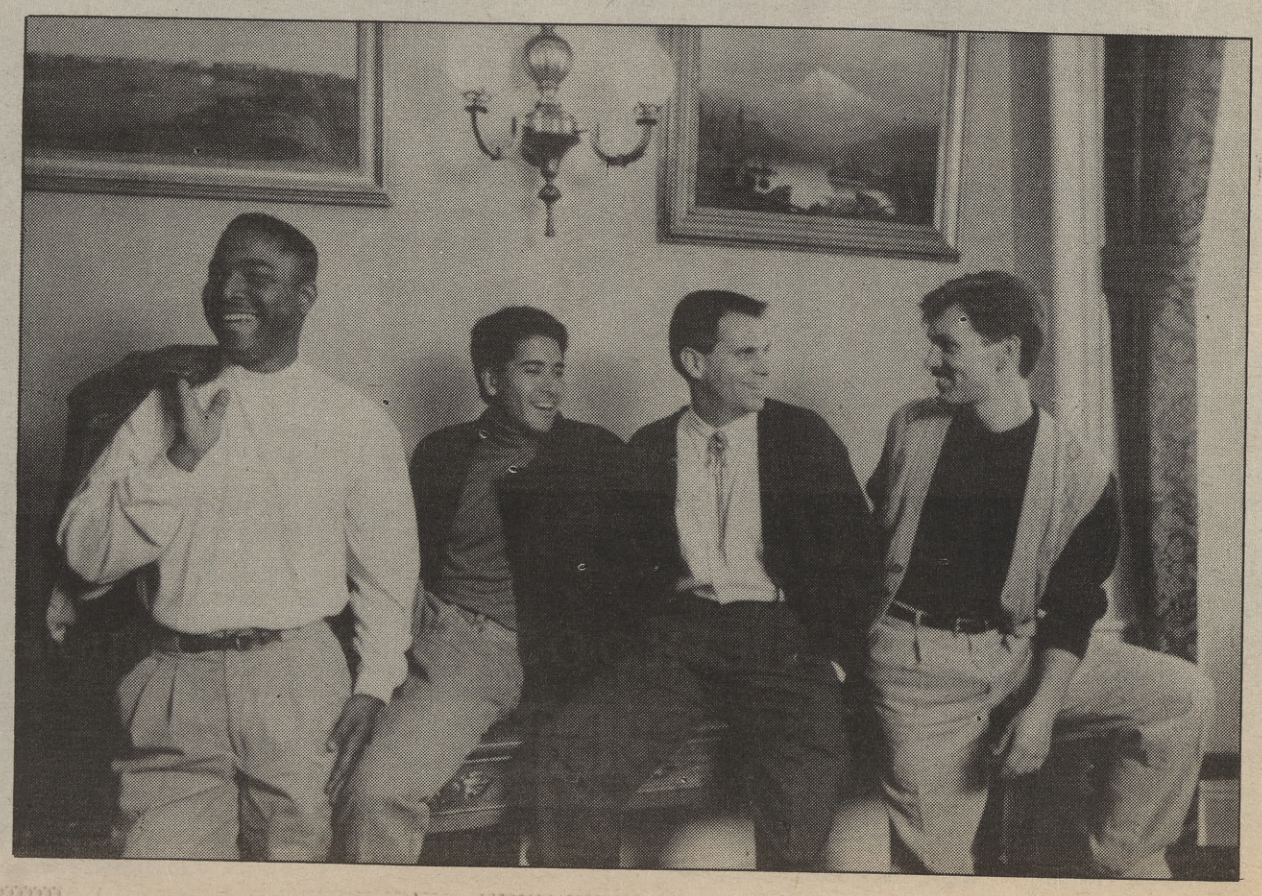
Fall Fashion



MGW FLASH!

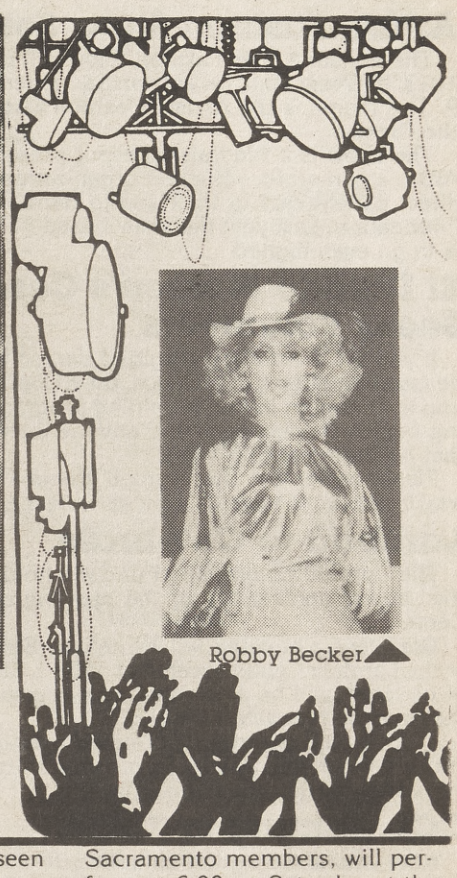
by **John Batchelor**
OF MGW STAFF

For phone numbers and details on events mentioned in this column, check the calendar and organization information in the paper.

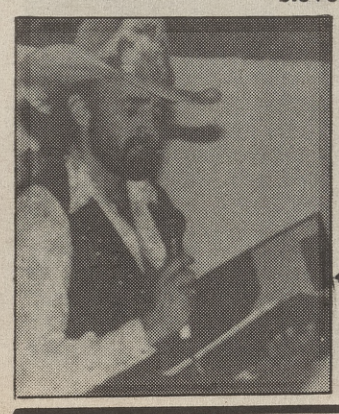
Neither snow nor sleet nor rain (in August!) nor sickness keeps me from getting **FLASH!** to you. A trouper **is** a trouper. This edition comes from my sickbed but is chock full of information nonetheless. Thanks to my fine network fo friends (informants) no one will miss a beat ● Sincere get well thoughts to MGW's **James Quast** as he recovers from back injuries. We miss your photography! ● Moving to the forefront of major campuses, **California State University, Sacramento** (CSUS) will host **Lambda,** a gay fraternity in the fall ● The **Pillars** 7th Anniversary party with commedienne **Marga Gomez** is here! If it's not sold out, make reservations now for August 18! ● Here's one more reminder about the **Buffalo Club's** Fundraiser for the **Buffalo Stingrays**, women's softball team. For a world class chicken barb-be-que and beer bust, stop by in the afternoon on August 19 ● The annual **Rainbow Festival** sponsored by **Faces** to benefit **Hope House** is pulling together for the Labor Day weekend. More performers are still needed for the Sunday Street Fair. Hopefully this year's fair will be as memorable as 1988's! ● The **Townhouse** is planning a **Celebrity Waiter's Banquet** to benefit **SAGA III Track and Field.** Also female impersonation shows continue on Sunday evenings ● **Joseph's Town and Country** proudly takes part in the **Grand Duke and Duchess** extravaganza weekend with an out-of-town show on August 25, the Grand D & D Ball on August 26 and a Victory brunch on August 27 ● The **Merchantile** will host the in-town show for the **Grand Duke and Duchess weekend on August 24.** Also candidates galore are sponsoring events at the Saloon ● **Gay Softball** is almost over but you can catch at least **two** more games on August 20. Following the games, there's a season finale party at **Faces** ● **Barbara Disney**, owner of Sacramento's **Partners Restaurant,** bartending at the Hacienda Del Sol Food for Thought benefit in the Russian River. A complete account of the event wil be forthcoming ● Want to run around town and hand out rubbers? To get involved in the **Condom Corps,** call **Joe Chase** at the Sacramento AIDS Foundation (SAF). Or to take part in the **Sex Angels** call **Franklin** or **John Kakies** at the Lambda Center ● The **California Men's Gathering (CMG)** continues its tradition in southern California on Labor Day weekend. For last minute reservations, call **Joe Balestreri** at 739-8132 ● **AIDS Walk, Sacramento** proudly raised **$11,975** at the final tally. Check presentations will be at the Westminster Presbyternian Church on August 18 in the afternoon ● It's not too early to start thinking about the 2nd annual "**Coming Out Follies.**" Why not take part in the October show ● **Nancy Nystrom** is walking 100 miles to raise funds for AIDS starting August 28. Call SAF to make a pledge ● And while it kills me to report this, **Dan Palimino** (aka: **Louella Parsons**) and **Michael Systek** recently celebrated five years together. There are still miracles in this world and not just at Disneyland! ● How does **SACWN** do it? On August 18, they present "Out in Suburbia" at the Clarion Hotel. This film is quite the talk of the town ● In conjunction with the Rainbow Festival, the Lambda Community Center presents "**Cats Who Care**" in the Big Tent on September 1. The broadway review features members of the cast of **CATS** in this midnight cabaret ● The **University of California, Davis, Medical Center** continues its fight against AIDS with a new **AIDS Unit - East 8.** Best wishes to the entire staff ● Don't miss the upcoming book signing event with **Robbi Sommers** at Lioness Books on August 31. The Sommers book is entitled, "**Pleasures**" (erotic lesbian short stories) ● Heard I missed helicopter rides high atop the new **Renaissance Tower** building. It was all part of a Channel 31 event promoting its new magazine series called "**After Hours**" ● The popular **Women's Rap & Social** discusses "Bi-Sexuality vs Lesbianism - Do we have a choice?" on August 21 and there's an open rap on August 28. On August 19 the group will sponsor a women's dance at the Lambda Center ● Meet and share experiences with others living with an HIV positive, ARC or AIDS diagnosis at the **Being Alive Program** social. The group meets every Thursday at the Lambda Community Center between 2 & 5 in the afternoon ● Grab your swimsuit, your own meat and a side dish and join **PSSN Positive Singles** for a pool party on August 26. For information, call 447-5925. By the way, rumor has it that the last party ended with nude water vollyball ● What's this about **Robert Garcia** locked in the bathroom at the SAF offices? It seems the lock malfunctioned and Garcia was released only after the entire door was removed hours later!! ● Lesbian groups in San Francisco are organizing blood drives for PWAs. It would be great to see Sacramento Women's groups organize similar drives ● Have you seen yours truly on the Gay cable magazine show **VISIONZ**? My informative segment is entitled "Out'n'About," and features a calendar of events. Showtimes are Wednesday at 9 p.m., Thursday at 4 p.m. and Friday at 11 a.m. on cable channel 47. During the week of August 23, showtimes are two hours earlier ● Selected portions of the **Names Project** quilt will be on display in Stockton on August 20-21. The **San Joaquin AIDS Foundation** is sponsoring the event ● Cloggers will be at the State Fair again this year. San Francisco's **Barbary Coast Cloggers**, including its Sacramento members, will perform at 6:00 on Saturday at the Beer Garden. The **Sutter Stompers** will perform at the Beer Garden Friday at 6:00. Let's all be there ● A special thank you to **Larry Baca** of **Information Arts** for all his time and assistance getting the **Hope House** newsletter started. And **Larry**, you never looked better! ● **Don Denham** informs me that the **Sacramento Men's Chorus (SMC)** is looking for a few good men. A desire to sing is the only prerequisite. A reception for new members is planned ● Until September -Autumn?? Take an active part in life. Stand Tall and Proud

. . . John■

Steve Scott, Karen Merick, Debbie Bell, and Robby Becker.



Robby Becker



Ricky Rea reciting his poem about his best friend Frank Lawler.

Photos by Michael Mary Addison

"The Survivors Show"

Karl Greene and Councilman discussing politics in Karls' backyard RCDC Brunch.

Photo by James Quast

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If you are having a hard time, go to the next BUDDY CONNECTION and get some help.

If you come up with a new excuse to continue unsafe sex, call Joe at the Sacramento AIDS Foundation--he wants to hear from you.

BUDDY CONNECTIONS are held at the SAF Training Space, 1900 K Street, Upstairs.

The next BUDDY CONNECTION is:
Sept. 8, Fri., 7-10 pm
Oct. 2, Mon., 7-10 pm
Oct. 23, Mon., 7-10 pm

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MGW HAPPENINGS

Artists Fashion Show Sets Event

The annual Artists Fashion Show will be held at the Crest Theatre, 1013 'K' Street Mall, Downtown Sacramento, on Saturday, September 9. The theme is **the Artists Fashion Show Goes to Rio: Carnival at the Crest**.

The show is a fundraising event presented by Sacramento Aid to AIDS, a non profit, volunteer organization which distributes funds for direct patient care to the Hand to Hand Project of Sacramento AIDS Foundation. Last year the show raised $11,000 and the goal this year is to go even higher!

El Dorado Women's Center Seeks Volunteers

If you are a caring, committed person who is concerned about the devastating effects of violence, the El Dorado Women's Center invites you to attend an in-depth training program for new volunteers. Training begins September 6 and anyone interested is enouraged to contact Katharine at 626-1450.

Please remember that a small amount of your time can go a long way in the work towards a more violence-free society.

Lambda to Celebrate

The Lambda Community Fund will hold an open house to celebrate the second anniversary of the opening of the Lambda Community Center.

The event, a high tea, will be held on Saturday, August 26, at 4 p.m. at the Lambda Center located at 1931 L Street. Members of the board of directors will be available to greet guests and to conduct tours of the recently renovated Center.

All 800 club members, founding members of the Center, and the entire Sacramento gay/lesbian community are invited to attend. For more information, call 442-0185.

CCL Coming to Town

Were you raised a good Catholic girl? Did you survive eight years of Catholic school? Or years of Saturday morning CCD? Did you endure an everlasting novitiate aimed at stamping out "particular friendships?"

Whether you are a lesbian who is (1) still trying to be Catholic, (2) still trying to recover from being Catholic, or (3) searching for something spiritually meaningful that does not degrade you for being a woman and a lesbian, the **Conference For Catholic Lesbians** (CCL) may have something to offer you.

CCL is a local and national organization for lesbians from a common religious background... some of us will never set foot inside a church again, some of us go every Sunday. Some of us are nuns; some are ex-nuns. But we all meet to share and develop our spiritual selves, to offer support, and to just socialize and have fun! We're having our first local gathering on Saturday, September 23, 7:30 p.m.

If you'd like more information about CCL in Sacramento, please call Kathleen at 362-4133.

Candidates to Discuss Issues

An issues Forum will be held for candidates in the City Council's District 1 race on August 24. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers (915 I Street), candidates will be available to meet constituents while issue questions are being formulated. At 7:15 p.m., the forum will start.

The event will be moderated by the League of Women Voters and is sponsored by the New Era Park Neighborhood Association (NEPNA), an issues oriented, grass roots midtown organization.

Candidates who have agreed to participate are Heather Fargo, Richard Geiselhart, Nels Hagan, Kate Karpilow, Mark Murray, Ray Trethaway, and Johnathan Walter.

The primary election is in September and, if necessary, the runoff will be held in November.

IGLOO Jamboree '89 at Mount Cross

Great Outdoors, the largest gay and lesbian outdoor recreation group, is celebrating its 10th Anniversary by hosting the first west coast IGLOO, International Gay and Lesbian Outing Organization, Jamboree. Jamboree '89 will be held at Mount Cross, located just a few minutes' drive from Santa Cruz, California, October 12 to 15.

Pre- and post-Jamboree activities arranged by Great Outdoors Chapters include a tour of San Simeon, a Sacramento River delta house boating trip and rock climbing with Stonewall rock climbers at Yosemite National Park.

IGLOO Jamboree '89 costs $125 to $140 per person, which includes housing and meals for four days and three nights. For more information, call Wayne Proctor at (602) 325-7607 or write Great Outdoors, 3750 North Country Club #44, Tuscon, AZ 85716-1264.

Men's Chorus Plans Ball

Hellfire and Damnation will be the theme for the Sacramento Men's Chorus' Halloween extravaganza slated for Saturday October 28 with the location yet to be disclosed. The singing group anticipates 800-1000 gay men and lesbians will participate in this second annual event which will benefit the Men's Chorus.

The "Gala" will provide partygoers with a very hellish atmosphere including dancing, food, no host cocktails, and prizes for most fiendish costumes. Special set designers have outlined what promises to be a visual array of "devilish" decorations. The cost for the "Hellfire Ball" will be $20 per person and $35 per couple.

The Men's Chorus has served the gay/lesbian community for five years — performing for such groups as Pillars, River City Democratic Club, CAPPAC, SACWN, the Sacramento AIDS Foundation and have helped with many other special events. The group is in need of expensive PA equipment and a quality keyboard instrument so that they will be able to expand their performances to facilities without PA systems and be able to do more outdoor activities. ■

GALA Music Festival

The Sacramento Men's and the Sacramento Women's choruses attended the Third International Music festival of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) at the University of Washington in Seattle to perform and exchange ideas.

The week long festival consisted of a variety of events, starting with a "choral extravaganza" performed by the Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses. Throughout the week a total of 44 choruses performed individually. The choral presentations were interspersed with small group ensembles that added another dimension to the event. The atmosphere of comradery and unity climaxed at the final concert when all the choruses joined together to sing "Come Out Singing" composed by Holly Near.

GALA III presented several pieces which were inspired by the tragic losses that have been suffered by many of the choruses because of AIDS. Romanovsky and Philips "Living With AIDS" sung by the Silicon Valley Men's Chorus was inspirational. Working together and coming out were themes of many of the songs and always brought a standing ovation from audiences.

GALA has grown rapidly since the first performance at the 1982 Gay Games in San Francisco. In 1983 the first GALA Music Festival was held in New York City. By 1986 GALA had grown to 30 member choruses, 17 of which attended the second festival held in Minneapolis. This year 60 of the 72 member choruses were present.

Participation of women's choruses has also increased. Two of the four commissioned pieces were created by women. "Home," an introspective meditative chant, was composed by Janice Gireck. Bernice Johnson composed an African style love song "I Be Your Water" that was performed during the week long celebration. Hundreds of singers also joined in a protest against the recent decision on the abortion issue.

The future is bright for gay and lesbian choral music. Sharing music among members of GALA widens the variety presented to our community. We can also expect more joint concerts among member choruses. Future plans include leadership conferences in Chicago (1990) and San Diego (1991). The next GALA music festival will take place in Denver in 1992 with over 100 choruses expected to participate. ■

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Do you have an hour to spare? MGW needs help on phones, typing, organizing, proofreading, etc. 441-6397.

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Personals-Men

Experienced reporters/photographers/editors wanted for this paper. 441-NEWS.

I'm 5'7" 140lbs. smooth tight sexy hot looking for same for hot safe sex 331-3543.

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GBM 27 5'9" 165 lbs, seeks GWM for fun? And cuddling and maybe building a relationship. Rick 424-4183.

Personals-Women

Experienced reporters/photographers/editors wanted for this paper. 441-NEWS.

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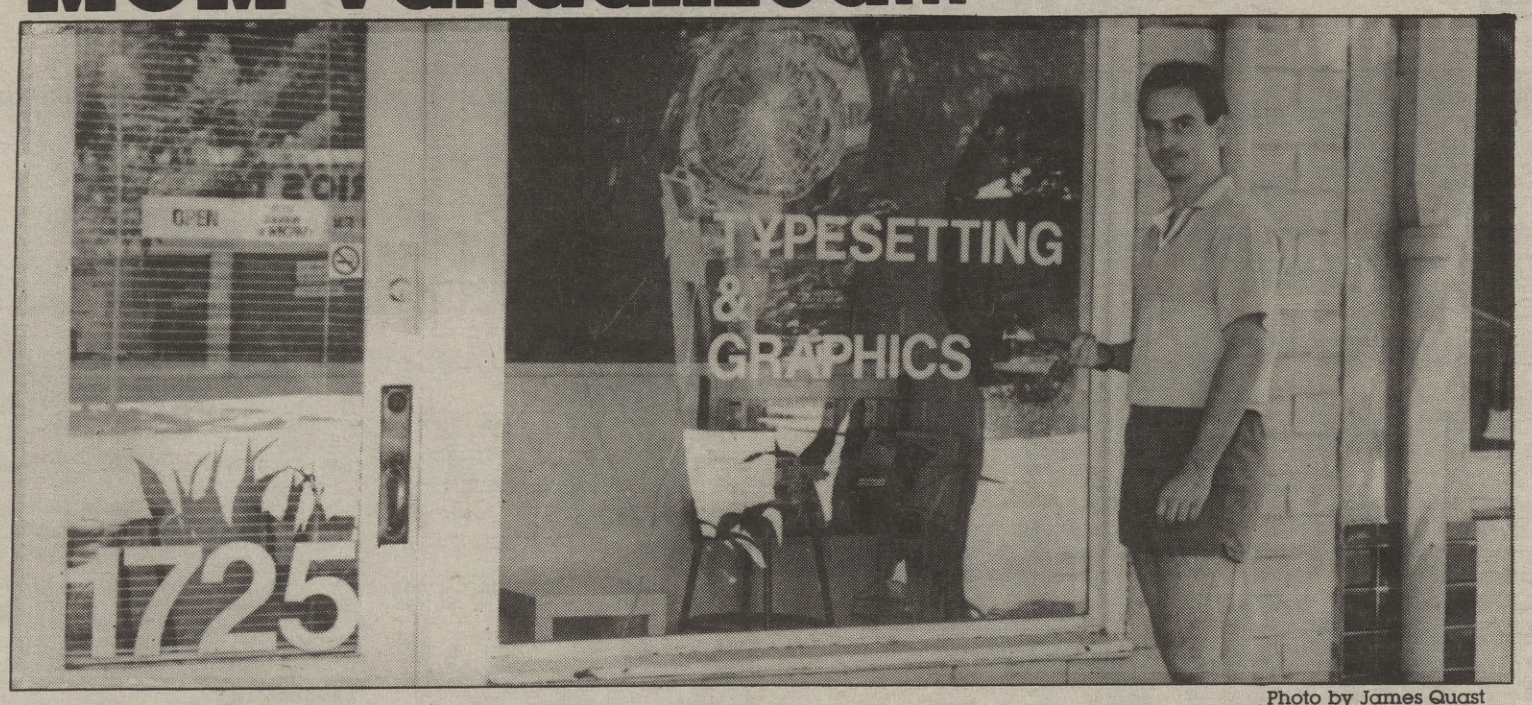

Photo by James Quast

ON SUNDAY MORNING MGW graphics person, Don Wilson, found the exterior of MGW's offices had been vandalized. The plate glass front window was shattered and the distinctive, neon MGW sign was broken beyond repair. A brick and broken eggs were found at the scene. Partygoers at a nearby gallery said the window was intact at midnight on Saturday. No other neighboring storefronts were damaged.

Griffis
From pg. 3

Despite widely distributed liers in Griffis' home neighborhood calling for witnesses to the second attack and the $10,000 reward for information offered by mayor Agnos n the alleged mid-day assault on he former MCC clergywoman, police sources said one of the inconsistencies they encountered was that no witnesses had reported seeing anything. Police said they had also conducted extensive interviews of residents in he area of the alleged assault without luck. Police officials said t was "extremely unusual" for no one to have seen or heard anything under the circumstances Griffis had outlined to them about the alleged attack.

In addition, police forensic experts said the damage to Griffis' clothing and the wounds to her breasts didn't match the first account Griffis gave of the assault, and police sources said they had concluded Griffis' wounds were n fact self inflicted. With a new version of the assault, however, police say they will have to now look at all the physical evidence n the case again in light of this second account.

Chief Jordan said the department would probably have its reevaluation of the evidence in the case completed by August 9.

Civil rights attorney John Wahl said he was concerned what impact the doubt being cast on Griffis' story would have on anti-gay violence in San Francisco, which a recent National Gay and Lesbian Task Force survey reported as the highest in the nation. "What worries me about this press conference," Wahl said, "is that people will now think that they can attack our people because nobody's going to believe the victim." Wahl and other community leaders here announced the formation shortly after the reported second assault on Griffis of the GLB Defense Institute that will teach self-defense methods, including the use of firearms, to lesbians and gays here.

However, Jordan said anti-lesbian/gay attacks continue to be a high priority in the police department. "The message has to be loud and clear that hate-related, prejudicial crimes will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Jordan also made it clear, however, that if the police report concludes that Griffis made up the second attack, she could herself be prosecuted.

MCC's Mitulski, during his Sunday night sermon August 6, told the congregation that he now suspects Griffis had also fabricated the first assault story which left her with facial bruises and cuts to her eye, cheek and mouth which required eight stitches. Mitulski also said he has reason to believe Griffis' injuries in the first attack may have been self-inflicted, as police now suspect in the second attack, and that she may have been behind a series of recent telephoned and written death threats aimed at the MCC pastor and Griffis.

"I've uncovered things that I can't discuss publicly," Mitulski said, "that lead me to believe there's a strong possibility that Lynn is behind all of this."

Despite earlier statements by Chief Jordan that they had no reason to suspect Griffis' account of the first attack, Mitulski said the police were "very seriously" re-examining whether she was also responsible for the first attack as well as several death threats aimed at Mitulski. "While they weren't ready to certify (that Griffis was responsible), they felt strongly about it," Mitulski said.

Mitulski also revealed that the MCC board of directors had offered Griffis the option of voluntary psychiatric hospitalization when she was placed on administrative leave but that she had rejected the proposal.

Mike Shriver of ACT UP/SF said, "I think it's time to get beyond the (alleged) attack on Griffis and to focus on the fact that violence against lesbians and gays is still increasing in San Francisco. It would be criminal if the media here in reporting on the Griffis case cast doubts on the reality of anti-lesbian/gay and anti-AIDS violence."

Mitulski said Griffis had worked at the church since last year after receiving divinity degrees from Lutheran Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Like some other gay leaders here, Mitulski said he personally was puzzled about why Griffis, who wasn't a widely known figure in the community, had been targeted for such attacks. "The church has been very public here. She hasn't been very public, so I was surprised."

Mitulski also said Griffis had left San Francisco following her second account of the attack to police and her resignation from the church and that he had no idea where she was. When asked if he had any explanation for Griffis' behavior, Mitulski said, "I can't understand why this would happen. It's certainly not normal behavior."

Despite a large stack of case-folders CUAV's Melinda Paras pointed at to illustrate the hard reality of anti-gay violence that many feel is nearly at an epidemic level in San Francisco, Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club president Ron Braithwaite voiced the larger fear that's come out of the griffis case.

"There has been a real increase in attacks against gays and lesbians here," Braithwaite said. "But it looks as if this (the Griffis case) is going to lessen the interest in gay and lesbian attacks here. That is the really tragic part of this."

Griffis' mother, Adele, said her daughter had returned to stay "with relatives" in Nebraska but declined to say where Griffis is or to comment further. ■

gay Vote

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